

Kentucky Libraries Cross \$1 Million in Funding Commitments!

To the surprise of no one, Kentucky libraries continue their history of E-rate excellence! To date, Kentucky libraries have received \$1,029,948.48 in funding commitments for Funding Year 2020. Another 44 applications with \$576,000 in requests are still in review. E-rate, or Education Rate, is a federal program designed to ensure schools and libraries have access to affordable high-speed broadband to support digital learning and robust connectivity. E-rate funds provide discounted Internet access and subsidize the cost of eligible network equipment. Discounts for Kentucky libraries range from 50% to 90%, with the average library receiving a discount of 80% on their bills. Discounts are calculated based on two factors: the percentage of students in the local school district eligible for the National School Lunch Program, and the urban or rural classification of the county served by the library.

New Faces at KDLA

Kim Usry began at the agency on Friday, May 1st and is the Training Development Specialist. She is currently working from home, but will eventually be in the Continuing Education office with Alicia McGrath and Charly Taylor. Kim will be developing online training courses for KY public libraries, ranging from multi-hour online courses to short tutorials and everything in between! She can be reached at kim.usry@ky.gov.

Steve Parrott is the new KDLA Regional Consultant for the West Region. He comes to KDLA most recently from the Mason County Public Library, where he served as director. He has also served in various administrative positions in public libraries for many years in Tennessee and South Carolina. He will be based in Bowling Green. He can be reached at (270) 498-8895 or steve.parrott@ky.gov.

Last, but not least, **Amy Olson** is our new Youth Services Statewide Consultant. She started back in March, but was asked to help out in the state unemployment office for the past few months. She's back now, and we're taking the opportunity to properly introduce her now. Amy received her MLS degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Amy has worked at the Lexington Public Library as a children's and teen librarian, taught bilingual (English/Spanish) literacy-based programming within the Fayette County School System and taught a Multicultural World Literature course at UK's School of Library and Information Science. Amy can be reached at amy.olson@ky.gov or (502) 564-1739.

Welcome to all of you!

KDLA Website Spotlight: Kentucky Public Library News Digest

Each week, KDLA collects links to fun, informative, and interesting library-related news articles from around the state as well as farther afield. They can be found on our website by going to **kdl.ky.gov > Librarians > Public Library Standards, Statistics & Directories > Kentucky Public Library News Digest** or <https://kdl.ky.gov/librarians/plssd/Pages/KentuckyPublicLibraryNewsDigest.aspx>. While there, you can also sign up to receive the digest in your email inbox.